

Birthdays

Mark Foulks 1/02
 Dwajuan Howse 1/10
 Wade Williams 1/13
 Julia Pitt 1/14
 James Bryant 1/20
 Gary Hutchinson 1/20
 Mitchell Whittenburg 1/21
 Jeff Harris 1/22
 Chase Martin 1/25
 David Sloan 1/26
 Kevin Madachik 1/27
 Nathan Duncan 1/28
 Marc Cartwright 1/31

STAY IN THE KNOW...

MFRD recently dropped the ampersand symbol (&) and became "Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Department."

MFRD Headquarters will now be known as "MFRD Station 1."

MFRD's Fire Prevention Division is now called the "Community Risk Reduction Division."

CAPTAIN AVARITT RETIRES WITH 29 YEARS OF SERVICE/ENGINEER MIKOLON PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN

Murfreesboro Fire Rescue Captain John Avaritt retired January 1 with 29 years of service.

Avaritt began his career with the department as a Dispatcher in November 1987. Avaritt says he was inspired to join the department, when then Firefighter Mark McCluskey visited the IGA grocery store where Avaritt worked and talked about what a great job he had. "Mark told me he thought I would fit in," Avaritt said. "I also had encouragement from Larry Bratcher, who was a member of MFD at the time."

When Avaritt started as a Dispatcher, he remembers the department did not have any computers. "I had taken some computer classes and Chief Bobby Swann asked if I would be able to work with one if they purchased it." Avaritt said, "MFD started with one computer and then hired a secretary." He says one of the biggest changes he has seen over the years is the use of computers and other technology in the fire service. "We now have computers in all the fire stations and on our apparatus," said Avaritt. "We also use smartphones and GPS units to assist us in finding locations of calls, which improves response times." Avaritt also notes that computers help save time when communicating with employees.

Reflecting on his 29 years at MFRD, Avaritt remembers discussing with a group of firefighters different calls they had or had not made. "Before the call, I had just made the statement that I had never been to a call with a casualty." Little did Avaritt know that just two minutes later, he would respond to a fire call involving an individual that had set his home on fire, taken his own life, and left the scene unsafe with gun powder and shells lying around. "This was my most memorable fire call," he said. "The threat of danger that occurs accidentally is one thing, but when first responders are intentionally targeted, it really makes you think!"

Fortunately, calls like that are not common and over the years Avaritt has experienced more positive than negative. "The people at MFRD are the greatest thing about working here," said Avaritt. "Young people come in with a desire to learn and help others. It's a wonderful thing...learning to do our best in a timely manner helps us to more efficiently and effectively save lives and property, which is what the job is all about!"

When asked where he sees the department in the next five to 10 years, Avaritt answered, "Ten years ago, we were just starting to get busy with EMS (medical) calls. EMS and fire working together is a great combination."



CONTINUED PAGE 4

LAST MONTH'S ANSWER:

Q. What are the five tools a quintuple combination pumper (quint) provides for firefighters to accomplish tactical firefighting functions?

A. 1,000 gpm or greater pump, 300 gallons or more of water, fire hose, minimum of 85 feet of ground ladders, and an aerial device.

[Tailboard Topics]

Q. What is a class “D” fire?



NASHVILLE PET EMERGENCY CLINIC DONATES NINE PET OXYGEN MASKS TO MFRD

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department received nine brand new pet oxygen mask kits December 16 from the Nashville Pet Emergency Clinic (NPEC).

The kits contain three different sized masks to fit all varieties of dogs and cats. The masks are designed to fit over the animals mouth/face allowing for life-saving oxygen following smoke inhalation.

Dr. Meagan Batey spoke to a group of firefighters at MFRD Headquarters about proper first aid procedures for pets, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Veterinarian technicians from the clinic explained other procedures for providing care to pets in an emergency situation.



“The goal of donating these masks to our local first responders is to provide training, equipment, and resources to help during some of the most challenging emergency situations,” said Christy Goodman, veterinarian technician with NPEC. The United States Fire Administration estimates that between 40,000 and 50,000 pets lose their lives to fire related injuries every year. “We hope this small gesture will make a difference for pets, families, and first responders,” she continued.

“We are truly thankful for the donation of the pet oxygen mask kits from NPEC,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. “Pets are very important members of the family, and having these tools may help us to save the lives of those four-legged loved ones.”

Until today’s donation, MFRD only had pet oxygen mask kits on the department’s four rescue units. “This will help us have at least one kit available for each station,” said Foulks.

The Nashville Pet Emergency Clinics have been providing after-hours emergency care for the greater Nashville and surrounding areas since 1977. They have three AAHA accredited, conveniently located state of the art facilities in Goodlettsville, Nashville, and Murfreesboro.

Group Photo: (L to R) Karen Wiggins (vet tech NPEC), Devon Blackburn (vet tech with NPEC) with “Maybe” the Chihuahua, Christy Goodman (vet tech with NPEC), Firefighter Jeff Clementi, Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks, Dr. Meagan Batey, and Engineer Randy Shaw.

GUNS 'N' HOSES RELAY FOR LIFE BASKETBALL GAME

DATE MOVED TO FEBRUARY 4TH

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue and Murfreesboro Police Department will go head to head in a “friendly” game of basketball, benefitting their combined “Boro Public Safety” Relay for Life Team. The game was originally scheduled for December, but postponed until Saturday, February 4, 2017. Game starts at 6:00 pm at Middle Tennessee Christian School. Ticket prices are \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Students, and Kids 5 and Under are FREE! Concessions will be available and raffles will be held between quarters. This event will definitely be fun for the whole family!

T-Shirts are also on sale, so you can represent your favorite team. Will it be #TEAMFIRE or #TEAMPOLICE? Shirts must be pre-ordered and cash is required at time of order. Cost is \$15 with the majority of the proceeds going to Relay for Life.



PICK YOUR TEAM...
SUPPORT YOUR
DEPARTMENT

Preorder SHIRTS FOR

\$15

CASH ONLY

**Must pay at time of pre-order
See Amy Norville, Ashley McDonald, or
Desire Thorpe*



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: AVARITT/MIKOLON

I see more medical involvement from our fire stations in the community.” He continued, “Murfreesboro’s population has grown from less than 40,000 to well over 100,000 during my time at MFRD. While there will always be a need for our basic service of firefighting, the needs of our citizens in the future will dictate what we will need to learn to help keep them safe and well.”

Avaritt notes that the staff at MFRD have always been very helpful during his career. “From Chief Foulks to our Administrative Support Staff, they are always working to give the firefighters tools to make our jobs easier. The coordination of purchasing great equipment and providing training and other educational opportunities has assisted MFRD with keeping our personnel and the community safe.”

Though he has thoroughly enjoyed his employment and will miss his co-workers, Avaritt says it’s time to focus on family. “I plan to spend more time with my family,” said Avaritt. “My wife Paula has had some health issues, and now that I will be retired, I’ll be able to assist her in building her strength back. I’ll also be able to spend more time with our son, John, who is a freshman at Blackman High School.”

“We congratulate Captain Avaritt on his 29 years of service and wish him a sincerely enjoyable retirement,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. As for Avaritt, he had one final comment, “I want to thank all of those who came before me at MFRD. You left a legacy of pride and family in our profession. God bless you!”

Promotion of New Captain

Engineer Chris Mikolon will replace Captain Avaritt as the new B-Shift Captain at Station 5 on Florence Road. He will assume the role on January 7, but will be formally pinned in a ceremony on a later date.

Mikolon has been with the department since August 2000. Over the years, he has participated in many department activities. He is a former member of MFRD’s National Award-Winning Honor Guard. He also served as a Shift Paramedic Instructor for years.

“We look forward to seeing Mikolon perform in this new role,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. “We have confidence that he will be a great leader for his crew!”

As for Mikolon, he says he is “humbled and excited” about being promoted. “It is an honor and blessing to have worked with so many great people who have helped me reach this point in my career,” he said. “I could not have accomplished it without their help and guidance.”

Mikolon and wife Angela have two children, Sydney (14) and Christian (10).



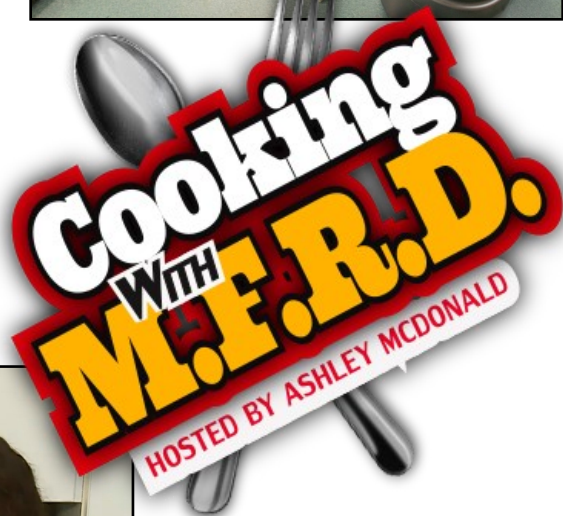
FIREFIGHTER PITT SHARES “REESES PB CHEESECAKE RECIPE” ON THE NEXT EPISODE OF “COOKING WITH MFRD”

Firefighter Julia Pitt shares her recipe for “Reeses PB Cheesecake” on the next episode of “Cooking with MFRD,” set to air on CityTV and YouTube in January.

Pitt crafted the recipe from a “Dream Team” of ingredients suggested by fellow firefighter and former show guest Justin McCraven.

Since the trial run, she’s made it a few more times and has it down to an art form.

You won’t want to miss this episode! Pitt is quirky, fun, and made for TV, but she may just be so good she steals the show...PERMANENTLY. STAY TUNED!!!



**BE SURE TO
WATCH
THIS EPISODE
TO THE END
TO
EXPERIENCE
“TV MAGIC!”**

FOUR YEAR OLD RAISES OVER \$350 FOR MFRD DURING CHRISTMAS

He may just be four years old, but Hayes Owen, son of David and Stacey Owen of Murfreesboro, had a BIG wish for Christmas.

Hayes asked family members to donate to his local fire department (Murfreesboro Fire Rescue) for his Christmas present. "We were sitting around discussing what we could do during Christmas to help out our community," said Stacey Owen. "Hayes absolutely loves firefighters and gets so excited whenever we pass a fire station or see a fire truck coming down the road. It didn't take him long to decide what we should do!"

MFRD started receiving donations in the mail around the holiday, but did not know why until finally one day, Ms. Joann Turner made it much clearer.

"Hayes Owen requested a donation to you for his Christmas present," Turner said in the letter attached with her donation. "I am so impressed by him showing the real meaning of Christmas."

Turner also asked that maybe Hayes could receive a special visit from the Firefighters in his neighborhood as a way of saying, "Thank you."

On December 28, the crew from Ladder 6 and Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks (driving the ladder truck himself) visited Hayes at home to thank him in person.

Hayes received a special "Certificate of Appreciation" and "Letter of Appreciation" from Chief Foulks, along with some other goodies from the department. The young boy raised over \$350 for the department's Fire Prevention Fund.

"How humbling it is that such a small child's Christmas wish could impact his community in a BIG way," said Foulks. "His selflessness is commendable, and we are honored to have such a fine, young man living in our city!"



Hayes and Fire Rescue Chief Foulks



#prayersforGatlinburg

Cecilia Herrell, with CityTV, interviewed MFRD personnel about their deployment to Gatlinburg.

[VIEW HERE](#)

**Photo courtesy of Firefighter Shan Womack*

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Lawson (Praise Report)

Two shifts in a row, Engine 3's A-shift crew has made a difference in the lives of two families. On Christmas evening, they responded to an unresponsive female who was ultimately in cardiac arrest. They arrived in less than three minutes of being dispatched. They applied the AED and inserted an airway and the AED shocked the patient twice. The patient was transported to St. Thomas-Rutherford with a pulse.

The next shift, Engine 3 responded to a patient in cardiac arrest and together with RCEMS Medic 4 resuscitated a patient who regained a pulse and blood pressure upon their arrival at the emergency room.

It is not as often as we would like, that a patient who is in full cardiac arrest regains their pulse, but it is so rewarding when we do! It is also not common that the same crew would have two saves within two shifts. It goes without saying that the efforts, skill, and prompt response of the crews certainly changed the outcome and made us all proud!

Great job Captain Tony Lehew, Acting Captain Alvin Brandon, Engineer Chad Davis, Firefighter Ben Honeycutt, Firefighter Ryan Battle, Firefighter-Paramedic Sam Bennett!

Kim Lawson

NEW ADDITION TO THE MFRD FAMILY

On December 11, Firefighter Nathan Duncan and wife Nicole welcomed their second child "Hudson Lee" to the world. He weighed 7 pounds/5 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long.

Hudson's big sister, Romey Marie, is in love with her new baby brother!

Welcome,
Baby Duncan!

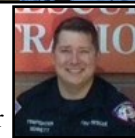


CREW MEMBERS NAMED FF OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

In the "Praise Report" from Assistant Chief Kim Lawson on Page 7, you learned of the positive outcomes for patients due to the life-saving efforts of Engine 3's A-Shift crew members. For this reason, the crew has been named "Firefighters of the Month" for January and February 2017.



(L to R): Lehew, Brandon, Davis, Honeycutt, and Battle.
Below: Bennett.



Again, they are: Captain Tony Lehew, Acting Captain (Engineer) Alvin Brandon, Engineer Chad Davis, Firefighter Ben Honeycutt, Firefighter Ryan Battle, Firefighter-Paramedic Sam Bennett!

"These men have represented our department in a professional manner and we are so very proud of what they accomplished in just two shifts," said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks.

MFRD PERSONNEL IN THE NEWS (COURTESY OF DNJ.COM)

Murfreesboro NAACP names Jerry Anderson humanitarian, hero award winners

The Daily News Journal Published 9:49 a.m. CT Jan. 3, 2017 | Updated 9:52 a.m. CT Jan. 3, 2017



(Photo: DNJ File)

MURFREESBORO — The Murfreesboro branch of the NAACP will hold its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 in the James Union Building on the Middle Tennessee State University campus.

Each year, the organization presents the [Jerry Anderson Hero and Humanitarian Awards](#) to local residents. The NAACP has presented an award in Anderson's name since 1990. Anderson, a former football star at Central High and the University of Oklahoma who went on to play professionally, died in July 1989 as he saved two young boys from drowning in the Stones River.

Hero awards will be presented to Captain Tony Lehew, Engineer Douglas Inglish and firefighter Melvin Holmes, Ryan Battle and Ben Honeycutt of the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department. U.S. Army veteran James Hershel Newsom Jr. will be presented with a newly created Hero Award for veterans.

Bart Walker, Martha Cook, Cynthia Wilson and Ernest Newsom will receive the Humanitarian Award.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Elder Tyrone R. Carter Jr., who serves as young adult pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Nashville.

Tickets for adults are \$30 and \$20 for youth (age 22 and younger). Contact Florence Smith at 615-589-5034 for tickets by Jan. 5. Tickets are also available from members of the NAACP's Murfreesboro Branch.

[Full Jerry Anderson article here](#)
[Full Corder article here](#)

Thomas Hopkins, Corder brothers inducted into Riverdale Boys Basketball Hall of Fame

Cecil Joyce, cjoyce@dnj.com Published 2:22 p.m. CT Jan. 3, 2017 | Updated 15 hours ago



(Photo: Tom Beckwith / For The DNJ)



Leon Corder, Tim Corder and Thomas Hopkins were the inaugural class inducted into the Riverdale Boys Basketball Hall of Fame Tuesday evening. Cecil Joyce



January Anniversaries

39 YEARS
Wayne Reed

17 YEARS
David Simms

12 YEARS
Adam P. Brown
Ben Honeycutt
Clay Malone
Lance Sutton
Ben Thorpe
Matt Welcome

7 YEARS
David Branch

5 YEARS
John Fisher
Duane O'Donnell